



# What's Happening in Houston's Theater District

## October 2009

### **WITHOUT BOUNDARIES**

**September 24 – October 4** (Times vary)

#### **Houston Ballet**

Houston Ballet's fall repertory program features a world premiere of Elements, by Stanton Welch to the music of Paul Hindemith alongside company premieres by two of the twentieth century's greatest choreographers. European master Jiří Kylián's Falling Angels is a mesmerizing study in motion and minimalism showcasing eight female dancers. Set to a pulsating score by Philip Glass, In the Upper Room is a signature work for Twyla Tharp, which contrasts the power and energy of modern dance with the speed and aerial dexterity of a more classical language.

#### **Wortham Center's Brown Theater**

**Tickets: \$17 - \$160**

**(713) 227-ARTS / houstonballet.org**

### **MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS**

**September 29 – October 11** (Times vary)

#### **Theatre Under the Stars**

High on the list of best-loved family films from Judy Garland's MGM career, MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS makes its TUTS debut as a lavish stage musical. Gorgeous turn-of-last-century costumes, a wonderful score, and the warm humor of nostalgic romance combine in a brand-new show with old-fashioned appeal for all ages. With a real moving trolley to make Esther's heartstrings go "zing zing zing!" and a Victorian home setting that even Martha Stewart would endorse, MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS is the kind of show TUTS has the reputation of always delivering .... a wonderful classic from the golden age of musical comedy. It's the one you'll want to share with all your loved ones --- a cavalcade of family fun.

#### **Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall**

**Tickets: Start at \$24**

**(713) 558-8887 / tuts.com**

### **ODE TO JOY: BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY**

**October 1-4** (Times vary)

#### **Houston Symphony**

With repeated hearings of the Ninth you go deeper and deeper into Beethoven's courage, imagination and depth.

#### **Jones Hall**

**Tickets: \$29 - \$116**

**(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org**

### **TSU HONORS**

**October 1** (7:30 pm)

#### **Texas Southern University**

TSU will present the inaugural Inspiration Award to the legendary Dr. Thomas F. Freeman, Distinguished Professor, Debate Team coach, and Founding Dean of the new TSU Honors College. The first Revelation Award will be presented to Yolanda Adams, TSU alumna, former debater, and GRAMMY Award-winning gospel vocalist.

In a fitting tribute to these two brilliant artists, this performance-packed show will feature a montage of art expressed in word, song, and dance and showcase University, local and national talent, including actor Roger Guenveur Smith. Following the show, honorees and performers will join guests to culminate the evening with a celebratory dessert after party. Proceeds will benefit the outstanding TSU Debate Team and the new Honors College.

#### **Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$85 - \$100**

**(713) 313-1361 / tsu.edu/honors**

## **VIRSKY UKRAINIAN NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY**

**October 2** (8:00 pm)

### **Society for the Performing Arts**

For more than 70 years, the Ukraine's professional dance company has won the hearts of audiences around the world with its passionate performances exhibiting the romance and exquisite charm of Ukrainian folk dancing. The color, beauty and folk tradition of the Ukraine are trademarks of this 85-member ensemble that celebrates the spirit of a culture through dance. By combining brilliant ballet techniques with traditional Ukrainian folk dance, founder Pavlo Virsky created a company that gained worldwide acclaim for its technically superb and innovative choreography. Now under the direction of Artistic Director Myroslav Vantukh, this dance troupe has charmed audiences all over the world with its diverse programs that embrace the charm and tradition of Ukrainian folk dance.

Each and every performance is a romantic, elevated, passionate and exciting show. The ensemble's diverse concert programs presenting the exquisite charm of Ukrainian folk dancing and the wealth of its traditions have been warmly received by audiences all over the world. The history of the ensemble goes back to 1937 when Pavlo Virsky and Mykola Bolotov, well-known Ukrainian ballet-masters, brought together a group of folk dancers.

**Jones Hall**

**Tickets: \$20 - \$55**

**(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org**

## **OUR TOWN**

**October 2 – November 1** (Times vary)

### **Alley Theatre**

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* follows the courtship and marriage of George and Emily, and in following the two, reveals the hidden mystery behind the everyday. Wilder's portrait of life, love and death is set in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, a fictional New England town at the start of the 20th century. With a penetrating wisdom about living in community, this play is an enduring American treasure and one of the greatest plays of world theatre. *Recommended for general audiences.*

**Hubbard Stage**

**Tickets: \$21 - \$100**

**(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org**

## **THE ROMANTIC SPIRIT**

**October 3** (7:30 pm)

### **Da Camera of Houston**

Da Camera kicks off a season-long exploration of Romanticism with the renowned Juilliard String Quartet, presenting the quartet's first Houston appearance with new first violinist Nick Eanet. The program features performances celebrating the 200th anniversary of the births of two geniuses, Felix Mendelssohn (b. 1809) and Robert Schumann (b. 1810). Da Camera Artistic Director Sarah Rothenberg joins members of the Quartet for Schumann's lyrical, exuberant and quintessentially romantic piano quartet.

Nick Eanet has been a chamber music player his entire life, first performing with a quartet at the precocious age of five. He was a member of the Mendelssohn String Quartet earlier in his career and had continued his chamber music performance while a member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra since 1999. His playing has been called "brilliant and passionate" by *The New York Times*.

**Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$25 - \$45**

**(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com**

## **JUAN VILLAREAL**

**October 3** (8:00 pm)

**Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$25**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**

## **ROB THOMAS**

**October 4** (8:00 pm)

**Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$50.75**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**

## **A LITTLE DAY MUSIC**

**October 7** (Noon)

### **Da Camera of Houston**

*A Little Day Music* concerts fulfill an important aspect of Da Camera's mission to develop the audience for chamber music and jazz by making it accessible to everyone and part of everyday life. Downtown workers, schools, seniors and day care centers are among the many who enjoy Da Camera's free lunchtime concerts on the first Wednesday of each month, October through May, at noon in the lobby of the Wortham Theater Center. Bring your lunch and enjoy the wide variety of artists and ensembles presented this season.

**Wortham Center's Grand Foyer**

**Tickets: Free**

**(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com**

## KAREN ARMSTRONG

**October 8** (7:30 pm)

### The Progressive Forum

Karen Armstrong is "arguably the most lucid, wide ranging, and consistently interesting religion writer today," according to Salon.com. In *The Case For God*, she moves from the Paleolithic age to the present, detailing the great lengths to which humanity has gone to experience a sacred reality, with a focus on the kind of faith that speaks to our polarized modern times. She first gained prominence with her groundbreaker, *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (1993). Others have included *The Battle for God, A History of Fundamentalism* (2000); *Buddha* (2001); and *The Bible: A Biography* (2007). Armstrong participated in Bill Moyers' remarkable series called *Genesis* on PBS. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, Armstrong has been in demand as an authority on Islam and religious compassion. She has addressed members of the U.S. Congress, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum in Davos. Armstrong will greet fans and sign books at the end of the evening.

**Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$14 - \$74**

**(832) 251-0706 / progressiveforumhouston.org**

## SHINEDOWN

**October 9** (7:00 pm)

### Verizon Wireless Theater

**Tickets: \$30 - \$33**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**

## ROYAL FIREWORKS

**October 10** (8:00 pm)

### Mercury Baroque

Handel's famed Royal Fireworks music headlines Mercury Baroque's season opening concert at the Wortham Center on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 8:00pm. Hear the Fireworks as it was meant to be heard! Listen as we recreate the excitement and splendor of this extravagant piece with the passion and energy that is so unique to Mercury. The concert opens with Bach's stirring Orchestral Suite No.4. Guest soloists join the Mercury for a Telemann Recorder Concerto and Mercury gives the Texas premiere of a Sinfonia by Fasch.

**Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$20 - \$47**

**(713) 533-0080 / mercurybaroque.org**

## CRITICAL MOMENTS

**October 10** (7:30 pm)

### Musiqua

Inprint and Musiqua join forces for a unique blend of literature, film and music. The program features author Mat Johnson, music by Harvey, Perle, Schwanter and Berio and filmmaker Jean Detheux's "L'oeuil ecoute" with live score by Musiqua's Pierre Jalbert. Brett Mitchell conducts.

**Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall**

**Tickets: \$16 - \$32**

**(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org OR musiqua.org**

## SECOND SATURDAY BOAT CRUISE

**October 10** (10:00 am)

### Buffalo Bayou Partnership

These 30-minute boat rides are a great way to spend the afternoon with your family. Escape from the city and enjoy the cool breeze as you glide along the bayou's waters. Look for graceful herons, jumping fish, and even the occasional alligator sunning on the bayou's banks. After your cruise, enjoy a picnic lunch on the Sabine Promenade grounds.

*No reservations necessary (20 person capacity per trip). Boat picks up at Sabine Street Bridge North Boat Landing. Children under 4 are not permitted.*

**Sabine Promenade**

**Tickets: \$5 - \$7 (cash only)**

**(713) 752-0314 / buffalobayou.org**

## 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TURKISH FESTIVAL

**October 10-11** (11:00 am each day)

### American Turkish Association Houston

Celebrate the culture of Turkey with the Turkish Festival. You'll have the chance to sample authentic Turkish food and pastries. Also, there will be Turkish beer and wine on hand or Turkish tea and coffee. There will be live local bands, belly dancers and folk dancers on hand to entertain. Also, you can learn about the Biblical sites of Turkey.

**Jones Plaza**

**Tickets: \$5**

**atahouston.org**

## **ALICE COOPER**

**October 11** (8:00 pm)

**Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$30 - \$35**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**

## **THE GREAT COLLABORATORS OF THE BALLET RUSSES**

**October 15-17** (Times vary)

**Dominic Walsh Dance Theater**

Dominic Walsh Dance Theater celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Ballets Russes. Under Sergei Diaghilev, this revolutionary company drew upon the genius of leading composers, artists, choreographers and dancers to produce groundbreaking productions that redefined classical dance. In this tradition, Walsh offers his 21st century take on classics from that era – The Dying Swan, The Firebird featuring Paris Opera Ballet Étoile Marie-Agnes Gillot, and The Afternoon of a Faun along with a revival of his breathtaking Le Spectre de la Rose

**Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall**

**Tickets: \$24.25 - \$51.25**

**(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org or dwdt.org**

## **RICHARD ALSTON DANCE COMPANY**

**October 16** (8:00 pm)

**Society for the Performing Arts**

Called “the finest choreographer the British modern-dance scene has ever known” by The New York Times and “a choreographer for whom every dance is a love affair with his chosen music” by The Times of London, Richard Alston brings his phenomenal company to Houston for the first time. In a synthesis of extraordinary dancing, evocative lighting and lyrical music, Alston's dances are unforgettable for their purity.

Launched in 1994 to great critical acclaim, Richard Alston Dance Company has grown into one of Britain's most avidly followed contemporary companies and is Britain's largest independent company. It offers a unique combination of the innovative and the entertaining in the work of its Artistic Director, Richard Alston, who in 2008 celebrated 40 years of award winning dance making.

**Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$20 - \$55**

**(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org**

## **BROADWAY'S BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL – SOME ENCHANTED EVENING**

**October 16-18** (Times vary)

**Houston Symphony**

Tony-winning Broadway leading man Brian Stokes Mitchell caught the nation's eye when he wowed audiences on this year's July 4th television special with the National Symphony. Stokes' unmistakable baritone voice will catch your ears and hearts when he performs music from South Pacific, West Side Story, Sweeney Todd and Man of La Mancha.

**Jones Hall**

**Tickets: \$29 - \$122**

**(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org**

## **GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES**

**October 16 – November 15** (Times vary)

**Alley Theatre**

Gruesome Playground Injuries charts two lives, using scars, injuries and calamity as the mile markers. An imaginative tour de force for actors and audiences, the play explores why people hurt themselves to gain another's love, and the cumulative effect of such damage, of such demands. Director Rebecca Taichman will make her Alley debut. *Recommended for mature audiences. Strong language, profanity, violence.*

**Neuhaus Stage**

**Tickets: \$21 - \$100**

**(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org**

## **THE WIZARD OF OZ**

**October 17** (10:00 am & 11:30 am)

**Houston Symphony**

Join Dorothy—and her friends the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion—as they follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City. As part of their journey, they'll explore the instruments of the Houston Symphony through Benjamin Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.

**Jones Hall**

**Tickets: \$12 - \$19**

**(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org**

## **CHARLES LLOYD NEW QUARTET**

**October 17** (7:30 pm)

### **Da Camera of Houston**

From his groundbreaking '60's quartet with its best-selling recording Forest Flower, to his current quartet with Houston natives Jason Moran and Eric Harland, legendary saxophonist Charles Lloyd has always been a singular voice in jazz. Lloyd is enjoying one of the most creative periods of his adventurous career.

**Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$30 - \$50**

**(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com**

## **DANCE INFUSION**

**October 18** (5:30 pm)

### **Uptown Dance Centre**

Uptown Dance Company presents Dance Infusion Contemporary ballet, modern and jazz infused dance concert with local and international choreographers. Featuring premier works by artistic director Beth Gulledge-Brown, Paola Georgudis, Ray Dones, Alex and Victoria Arizpe, and famed Broadway choreographer Chet Walker. Featuring guest performance by Revolve.

**Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall**

**Tickets: \$28.25 - \$56.25**

**(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org OR uptowndancecentre.com**

## **IMAGINATION MOVERS**

**October 18** (1:30 pm)

### **Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$20 - \$35**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**

## **AN EVENING WITH E.L. DOCTOROW**

**October 21** (7:30 pm)

### **Inprint**

The Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series presents one of America's most celebrated authors, literary lion E. L. Doctorow, winner of the National Book Award and three National Book Critics Circle Awards. Doctorow, the author of Ragtime, Billy Bathgate, and many more, will read from his newest work, Homer & Langley. Tickets \$5 general admission; free rush tickets, if available, the night of the reading to seniors 65+ and students.

**Alley Theatre's Hubbard Stage**

**Tickets: \$5**

**(713) 521-2026 / inprinthouston.org**

## **HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD & ATREYU**

**October 21** (6:30 pm)

### **Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$25**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**

## **MARY POPPINS**

**October 22 – November 8** (Times vary)

### **Broadway Across America**

Combining the best of the original stories by P. L. Travers and the beloved Walt Disney film, the Tony® Award-winning MARY POPPINS is everything you'd hope for in a Broadway musical—and more. Produced by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, the show includes such wonderful songs as Chim Chim Cher-ee, A Spoonful of Sugar, Let's Go Fly a Kite and, of course, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. The NY Daily News hails MARY POPPINS as "a roof-raising, toe-tapping, high-flying extravaganza!" Don't miss all the magic of Broadway's super hit musical, and let your imagination take flight.

**Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall**

**Tickets: \$20 - \$130**

**(800) 745-3000 / broadwayacrossamerica.com**

## **BRIAN REGAN**

**October 23** (8:00 pm)

### **Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$37.50 - \$42.50**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**



## VILLAGE OF WALTZ

**October 23-24** (8:00 pm each night)

### Hope Stone Dance

The world premier of choreographer Jane Weiner's evening length work Village of Waltz. Hope Stone Dance, a company of 12 dancers & performers, joins forces to bring to life an evening of exquisite dance. Including an evening of all live music by composer/musician Peter Jones, with vocalist Ana Trevino-Godfrey.

**Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$25**

**(713) 526-1907 / hopestoneinc.org**

## THE ELIXIR OF LOVE

**October 23 – November 7** (Times vary)

### Houston Grand Opera

This sparkling folktale is one of Donizetti's most popular operas. Lovesick Nemorino falls madly in love with the young landowner Adina knowing well that she is out of his league. Luckily, the scheming Dr. Dulcamara has just the cure to what ails him. Russian soprano **Ekaterina Siurina** sings the minx Adina and **Eric Cutler** is Nemorino. Internationally renowned Italian bass-baritone **Alessandro Corbelli** plays Dr. Dulcamara, and **Liam Bonner** is the flamboyant Sergeant Belcore. Directed by **Annabel Arden**, this delightful production takes place in a rustic Italian town square.

**Wortham Center's Brown Theater**

**Tickets: \$20 - \$200**

**(713) 228-6737 / houstongrandopera.org**

## DEMETRI MARTIN

**October 24** (8:00 pm)

### Live Nation

An Emmy Award-nominated and Perrier comedy award-winning American comedian, actor, artist, musician, writer, and humorist, Martin is best known for his work as a standup and prop comedian, and as a contributor on *The Daily Show*. Currently, he is hosting his own show on Comedy Central entitled *Important Things with Demetri Martin*. Martin starred in this summer's Ang Lee film *Taking Woodstock*, which premiered at the 2009 Cannes Festival. Come find out why everyone's talking about Demetri Martin!

**Jones Hall**

**Tickets: \$35**

**(713) 629-3700 / ticketmaster.com**

## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOUSTON WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

**October 24** (Noon)

### Athena Art Project

A celebration of music featuring women-fronted bands as well as art, culture and community that has been held annually since 1995.

**Jones Plaza**

**Tickets: \$16 - \$23**

**hwfestival.org**

## O.A.R.

**October 24** (8:00 pm)

**Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$27 - \$29.50**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**

## THE EIGHTH FLOOR

**October 24-25** (Times vary)

### OESP Inc./Obmon Productions

Greenville Hospital is a far cry from General Hospital. It smells of five-day old garbage, it's unclear, and many of the patients don't have insurance. The staff only knows patients by room number with disregard to their names---until we meet Patricia. Patricia is a compassionate, lovable nurse technician who is excited about her new job. She is concerned with each patient's health and she ensures that they are well taken care of. As she befriends and gets to know each patient, we observe the stories of how they contracted the virus. As each story unfolds, we begin to see them as human beings instead of people with AIDS. The underlying message, however, is a message of hope and faith that knowledge, understanding, and human love and compassion will ultimately triumph.

**Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall**

**Tickets: \$36.25 - \$41.25**

**(713) 315-2525 / thehobbycenter.org**

## AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN SONDHEIM

**October 25** (7:30 pm)

### Society for the Performing Arts

The composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim is the most important artist to work in the American musical theater over the past half-century. He has not only collaborated on more than a dozen landmark shows and written countless standard songs but has also been the single most influential force in bringing the Broadway musical into the modern age. In 2008 Mr. Sondheim agreed to accept a limited number of "rare" appearances with New York Times columnist and former chief drama critic Frank Rich.

During the live, unscripted conversation, Mr. Sondheim and Mr. Rich will reminisce about Stephen Sondheim's career including his collaborations with Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Robbins and Tim Burton; predecessors, including his mentor Oscar Hammerstein II; the state of American musical theater; the differences between film and theater; and, in a very personal series of reflections, his own creative process, speaking specifically on works ranging from his early shows *Gypsy* and *West Side Story* to such later classics as *Company*, *Follies* and *Sweeney Todd*.

It is an evening conversation that offers a most personal and engaging view of Stephen Sondheim and his life in the theatre.

**Jones Hall**

**Tickets: \$20 - \$70**

**(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org**

## DR. JAMES HANSEN

**October 29** (7:30 pm)

### The Progressive Forum

James Hansen was the first to create broad awareness of global warming in his Congressional testimonies in the 1980s. His recent research has made the public aware that the climate is even more sensitive than previously thought, that the safe level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is 350 ppm (parts per million). Currently the steadily rising CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is higher than the safe level at 389 ppm according to April observations in Hawaii by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Dr. Hansen is head of a major U.S. governmental agency responsible for atmosphere studies. Government regulators preclude us from identifying the agency, describing his Forum appearance as "personal/outside activity." Dr. Hansen is making a rare and timely public appearance just prior to the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December whose purpose is to forge an international climate treaty.

**Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$14 - \$74**

**(832) 251-0706 / progressiveforumhouston.org**

## ERIC BENET, MINT CONDITION & LEDISI

**October 29** (8:00 pm)

**Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$45.75 - \$85.75**

**(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com**

## ITALIAN ROMANTICS

**October 30** (8:00 pm)

### Da Camera of Houston

*Enso String Quartet; Eliot Fisk, guitar*

Guitar virtuoso Eliot Fisk teams up with one of today's most acclaimed young chamber ensembles for an Italian sojourn. Among other musical delights is rarely heard string music by two legendary opera composers, Puccini and Verdi.

**Wortham Center's Cullen Theater**

**Tickets: \$25 - \$45**

**(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com**

## KAVAKOS PLAYS & CONDUCTS MOZART

**October 30 – November 1** (Times vary)

### Houston Symphony

Gramophone has written of Kavakos—and Houston audiences have heard—that "the exquisite tenderness of his playing gives the music a sense of timeless, poignant beauty." Now hear this extraordinary musician conduct your orchestra.

**Jones Hall**

**Tickets: \$29 - \$116**

**(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org**

## LOHENGRIN

**October 30 – November 15** (Times vary)

### Houston Grand Opera

One secret protects one great love in Wagner's mystical romantic opera. Celebrated Wagnerian tenor Simon O'Neill makes his Houston Grand Opera debut as the knight Lohengrin, whose pure love is threatened by common human greed. Canadian soprano Adrienne Pieczonka sings the misguided Elsa, bewitched into betraying the very one she loves. Soprano Christine Goerke is the sorceress Ortrud and Richard Paul Fink plays her husband Frederick of Telramund, who will stop at nothing to gain the throne. Daniel Slater directs this grand-scale production, conducted by HGO Music Director Patrick Summers.

**Wortham Center's Brown Theater**

**Tickets: \$20 - \$200**

**(713) 228-6737 / houstongrandopera.org**

**BRAND NEW**

**October 31** (7:30 pm)

**Verizon Wireless Theater**

**Tickets: \$25 - \$28**

**(713) 230-1600 / [livenation.com](http://livenation.com)**

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